DATE: November 9, 1972

To : SUMEX Collaborators

FROM : J. Lederberg

SUBJECT: Report on our Application and Site-Visit (June 1, 1972); Sept. 11, 1972

Our application was <u>deferred</u>, with a rather strong line on how it might be revised and then be fundable.

Our case for <u>a broad-base resource was rejected</u>, mainly on the grounds that we had failed to demonstrate a need for a large realtime resource, like the PDP-10 we had contemplated, for most of the collaborating projects.

We were encouraged to submit a drastically reduced revised application along lines that would support mainly the DENDRAL Project and perhaps also function as a "resource" for other artificial-intelligence-oriented projects at other institutions, with access by way of national computer communications networks.

We of course have little choice but to proceed in response to these recommendations, and will do so in time to meet a December 4 deadline.

I regret that this outcome impedes the possibility of a <u>formal</u> arrangement of working together with most of the proposed collaborators. If we are funded, I will make every effort to find legitimate ways for mutual help and to support at least the sharing of common intellectual concerns and insights. We are quite uncertain as to the prospective guidelines for the shared use of the diminished facility, which may however become possible on some sort of fee basis.

I will try to keep all interested parties informed about further developments.

Finally, my personal thanks for the considerable effort that so many of you made in preparing the case for the site visit team.

Sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg

Distribution: C. Constantinou, C. Djerassi, E. Feigenbaum, G. Franklin, D. Harrison, L. Herzenberg, B. Kopell, E. Levinthal, T. Roth, T. Stamey, B. Stenson.

cc 'for you information' sent to the Medical Center Computer Facilities Planning Committee.